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basis, and opened up many possibilities and suggestions for their further investigation. All of the results seem to point to the truth of the view that sex is predetermined in the germ-cells, and that therefore it cannot be modified by environmental conditions except, of course, by such conditions, as yet unknown, as are capable of producing mutations.—GEORGE H. SHULL.

Current taxonomic literature.—N. L. BRITTON and J. N. ROSE (Jour. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 9:185-188. 1908) have proposed a new genus (*Carnegiea*) of the Cactaceae. The genus is based on the well-known *Cereus giganteus* Engelm., and contains but the one species. H. PRITIER (Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 12:171-181. 1909) has published 8 new species of flowering plants from tropical America. The descriptions are supplemented by two full-page illustrations and several text-figures; the types are deposited in the U. S. National Herbarium. A. THELLUNG (Bull. Herb. Boiss. II. 8:913, 914. 1909) records 3 new varieties of *Lepidium pubescens* Desv. from South America. F. STEPHANI (*ibid.* 941-972) has published 43 new species of the genus *Mastigobryum* from various localities. G. BEAUVERD (*ibid.* 986-988) has published a new *Eriocaulon* from Brazil and also a new species of *Tulbaghia* from the Transvaal; the same author (*ibid.* 993-1007) records 8 new species and one variety of *Nothoscordum* from Uruguay and gives an analytical key to the Uruguayan species. E. G. PARIS (Bull. Soc. Bot. France IV. 8:Mém. 14, pp. 1-66. 1908), under the title *Florule bryologique de la Guinée française*, has published 6 new species of mosses. F. GAGNEPAIN (*ibid.* Session extr., pp. xxxvi-xliii) has published 4 new species of Zingiberaceae and a new genus (*Alaenidia*) of the Marantaceae from Africa, and also a new species of *Calathea* native of Indo-China. G. BONATI (*ibid.* 509-515, 537-543) describes 25 new species and 4 new varieties of scrophulariaceous plants from Indo-China. F. GAGNEPAIN (*ibid.* 521-527, 544-548) has published 12 new species of Asiatic plants belonging to the Bixaceae and Pittosporaceae. F. KRÄNZLEIN (Fedde Rep. Nov. Sp. 6:18-23. 1908) publishes 8 new species of Orchidaceae from Bolivia. WOLFF (*ibid.* 24) records a new *Eryngium* from Bolivia. O. BECCARI (*ibid.* 94-96) records 4 new species of palms from the Antillean region. W. WANGERIN (*ibid.* 97-102) has published 13 new species of the genus *Cornus*, chiefly from China. E. HACKEL (*ibid.* 153-161), under the title *Gramineae novae V*, has published 8 new species and 5 varieties of grasses from Bolivia. E. L. GREENE (*ibid.* 161) records a new species of *Argemone* from New Mexico. E. ROSENSTOCK (*ibid.* 175), in an article entitled *Filices novae IV*, has published 4 species and one variety of ferns as new to science. B. P. G. HOCHREUTNER (Ann. Conserv. et Gard. Genève 11-12:136-143, reprint pp. 1-8. pls. 1, 2. 1908) has published a revision of the genus *Adansonia* in which 8 species are recognized, one of which, *A. Stanburyana* from northwestern Australia, is proposed as new to science. G. A. NADSON (Bull. Jard. Imp. Bot. St. Petersb. 8:113-121. pl. 1. 1908) describes a new microorganism (*Rhodosphaerium diffuens*) from the Caspian Sea; the systematic position of the plant according to the author is "an der Grenze zwischen Algen und Bakterien." C. FERDINANDSEN and O. WINGE (Bot. Tids-

skr. 29:1-25. pls. 1, 2. 1908) have published 19 new species of fungi; these are based on collections made in the Danish West Indies by C. RAUNKIAER during the years 1905 and 1906. W. FAWCETT and A. B. RENDLE (Journ. Botany 47:3-8. 1909) have published diagnoses of 12 new species of orchidaceous plants from Jamaica; these are preliminary to a monograph of the orchids of Jamaica. E. ULE (Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 42:191-238. 1908), in collaboration with different specialists, under the title *Beiträge zur Flora von Bahia I*, has published 75 species and one variety as new to science; these are referred to families in the Engler sequence from the Bromeliaceae to the Araliaceae and include the following new genera: *Sincoraea* and *Cryptanthopsis* (Bromeliaceae), *Heptocarpum* (Capparidaceae), and *Itatiaia* (Melastomaceae). E. KOEHNE (*ibid.* Beiblatt 97:47-53) records 5 new species and 4 new varieties in the Lythraceae from South America, Africa, and Siam. Different authors (Kew Bull. 1908:432-441), under the title *Diagnoses Africanæ XXVI*, have published 19 new species and one variety of African angiosperms, including 2 new genera (*Aristogeilonia* and *Androstachys*) of the Euphorbiaceae; also (*ibid.* 445-451) in *Decades kewensis: Decas LI*, 10 new species are described from various localities. E. L. GREENE (Leaflets Bot. Obs. & Crit. 2:1-24. 1909) proposes a series of 60 new species and 3 new varieties of flowering plants, chiefly from western United States. J. BORN-MÜLLER (Mitt. Thür. Bot. Ver. 23:1-27. 1908), in continuation of his contributions under the title *Novitiae Florae Orientalis*, has published 23 species as new to science, of which 17 belong to the genus *Astragalus*. A. SCHERFFEL (Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesells. 26a:762-771. 1909), proposes a new genus (*Asterococcus*) for the alga hitherto known as *Pleurococcus superbus* Cienk. N. L. BRITTON (Bull. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 5:311-318. 1909), in continuation of his studies on the flora of the Bahamas, has described 6 new species of flowering plants. F. S. EARLE (*ibid.* 373-451), under the title of *Genera of the North American Gill Fungi*, recognizes 147 genera for North America, and of these 38 are designated as new.—J. M. GREENMAN.

Hybrids of *Oenothera*.—DEVRIES has recently published several remarkable papers on hybridization in *Oenothera*. The results concern a new type of hereditary behavior, which is of great interest, showing as it does that we are only on the borderland of knowledge in these fields. Such discoveries, which open new vistas for the future, are of special value as a stimulus to research. The first of these papers appeared in this journal¹¹ and announced the discovery of what are called twin hybrids, and a later paper¹² dealt with triple hybrids. In certain cases, when one of the wild species of the *Onagra* group is crossed with *O. Lamarckiana* or one of its mutants, two types are produced in about equal numbers, both of which breed true, the same types appearing in the different crosses. These types DEVRIES calls *O. laeta* and *O. velutina*. In the case of *O. scintillans* and *O. lata*

¹¹ DEVRIES, HUGO, On twin hybrids. BOT. GAZETTE 44:401-407. 1907.

¹² ———, On triple hybrids. BOT. GAZETTE 47:1-8. 1909.